

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, June 4th, 2018

MINUTES – DRAFT

Hampden Town Office

Attending:

*Councilor Terry McAvoy, Chair
Mayor Ivan McPike
Councilor Mark Cormier
Councilor Dennis Marble
Councilor David Ryder
Councilor Stephen Wilde
Town Manager Angus Jennings
Town Attorney Ed Bearor*

*Incoming Manager Jim Chandler
Town Clerk Paula Scott
DPW Director Sean Currier
Rec Director Shelley Abbott
Bangor Asst. City Mgr Mike Crooker
Resident Walt Cupples
Resident Marge Lawrence
Residents*

Chairman McAvoy called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

1. Meeting Minutes

- a. May 21st, 2018** – *There was a motion by Councilor Marble seconded by Mayor McPike to approve the minutes. Approved 6-0.*

- 2. Review & Sign Warrants** – *Warrants were presented and signed. Mayor McPike asked about expenditures to Nicklebeth Turf on warrants #92 and #94 totaling \$16,220 and wanted to ensure that these expenses were properly budgeted in the proposed FY19 budget, noting that the total expenses exceed the budgeted amount for grub prevention in the Buildings & Grounds budget. Manager Jennings verified that the costs had been properly budgeted for FY19, and that these invoices had been paid out of the Buildings & Grounds budget and the Rec Budget.*

- 3. Unfinished Business** – *None.*

4. New Business

- a. Recommend Council authorization to expend funds from the Personnel Reserve Account (3-733-00) for the purpose of paying accrued vacation and a portion of accrued sick time to a departing employee** – *Motion by Chairman McAvoy seconded by Councilor Marble to recommend Council authorization to expend \$8,735.21 for the purpose of paying accrued vacation and a portion*

of accrued sick time to departing employee Angus Jennings in accordance with the Town personnel policy. Motion passed 6-0.

- b. Recommend award of the concrete work for the DPW Salt Building bid to C W Martin Concrete** – *requested by DPW Director Currier – Motion by Mayor McPike seconded by Councilor Marble to recommend Council award of the bid for concrete work at the DPW Salt Shed to C.W. Martin Concrete, with an amount not to exceed \$40,400. Motion passed 6-0.*
- c. Request for Council authorization for the expenditure of an amount not to exceed \$40,400 from the Solid Waste Reserve Account (3-777-00) for concrete work for the new DPW Salt Building** – *requested by DPW Director Currier – Manager Jennings advised that this reserve funding had been previously authorized by the Council in October 2017, so no vote is needed. The item was passed over.*
- d. Recommend award of the carpentry work for the DPW Salt Building bid to Complete Construction** – *requested by DPW Director Currier – Motion by Mayor McPike seconded by Councilor Marble to recommend Council award of the bid for carpentry work at the DPW Salt Shed to Complete Construction, with an amount not to exceed \$35,000. Motion passed 6-0.*
- e. Request for Council authorization for the expenditure of an amount not to exceed \$35,000 from the Solid Waste Reserve Account (3-777-00) for carpentry work for the new DPW Salt Building** – *requested by DPW Director Currier – Manager Jennings advised that this reserve funding had been previously authorized by the Council in October 2017, so no vote is needed. The item was passed over.*
- f. Committee review and discussion regarding the possible waiver and consent agreement with Waste Management to allow delivery of MSW to PERC for a waiver fee** – *There was discussion of the terms recently approved by the MRC Board whereby communities may choose to pay a waiver fee in order to send waste to PERC rather than to landfill during the “bridge period” prior to full operations at Fiberight. It was reported that, with the waiver fee, the per ton cost would go to \$120/ton instead of the contracted cost of \$70/ton. The Committee agreed this did not make sense to pursue. Councilor Marble said that the consequence of the extended bridge period is anti-environmental, due to landfilling, and said he hopes that MRC and Fiberight would minimize what appears to be an*

irresponsible method of waste disposal.

- g. Recommend Council waiver of the residency requirement for new Town Manager James Chandler** – *Motion by Councilor Marble seconded by Councilor Wilde to recommend Council waiver of the residency requirement for new Town Manager James Chandler. Mayor McPike asked what kind of timeframe? Incoming Manager Chandler said it may be next spring. Councilor Wilde said that this requirement in the Town Charter seems kind of antiquated. Motion passed 6-0.*
- h. Recommend Council referral of proposed FY19 budget to public hearing for June 18th** – *Manager Jennings said that the Council will be asked to refer a proposed budget to public hearing, and presented a series of slides summarizing the budget process to date, major topics discussed during the budget process, factors affecting FY19 costs and revenues, and summarized recommended changes he asked the Council to incorporate prior to referral. These changes included increases and decreases in various personnel line items for Administration, Police, Fire and Recreation with a net impact of adding \$9,576 to the budget; these changes were due to updates to the personnel budgeting workbook, and included applying 2% COLA to public safety. He also recommended funding The Bus for the full year at the amount initially proposed of \$106,352. He noted that a reduced local share of Bus costs may result from a process now underway in Bangor, but because any changes in the funding allocation are not yet official it is recommended to budget for the original amount. He also reported that a decision on the Service Fee litigation had been received today and was not favorable to the town, so he is recommending a reduction of \$4,430 in budgeted FY19 Service Fee revenues.*

Councilor Ryder asked about applying COLA at 2% across the board, not just union, and Manager Jennings advised this would add about \$17,000 to the budget. Chairman McAvoy said this would be more equitable, and Councilor Marble said this would avoid staff morale issues if all parts of the organization receive the same COLA. Mayor McPike agreed. Councilor Cormier said that union members pay dues whereas non-union employees do not. There was a call for a vote and the recommendation to apply 2% COLA across the board passed 5-1 with Councilor Cormier opposed.

There was discussion of Schoolhouse Lane, which is proposed for complete reconstruction in the draft budget. Councilor Wilde asked if the cost of paving could be broken out so that this could be either reduced from the project budget (with paving costs coming out of the

paving budget for FY19) or reduced from the paving budget (with the costs paid from the street construction budget). Manager Jennings asked DPW Director to prepare an estimate of the road paving costs for inclusion in the June 18 meeting packet.

Resident Marge Lawrence spoke in favor of the bus, saying that it helps make Hampden a livable community. Resident Walt Cupples of 213 Canaan Road said he's lived in Hampden 30 years and it is the best of both worlds, between Hampden and Bangor. He said the bus is a critical link and we would like to see service expanded in the future, but for the current budget process would like to keep the current level of service. Marge Lawrence said that people live here who couldn't live in Hampden without the bus. People also need it if injured, and as they get older. She said it's a needed service.

Councilor Ryder asked about the estimated mil rate impact of the proposed budget. Manager Jennings said that an estimate would be prepared for inclusion in the June 18 meeting materials.

There was a motion to refer the proposed budget to public hearing, including the recommended changes discussed tonight (including funding for the bus, the 2% COLA, and the other revisions to various personnel lines). The motion passed 4-2 with Councilors Cormier and Wilde opposed.

5. Public Comment – None.

6. Committee Member Comments – *Councilor Wilde said this has been a really tough budget season. Proposed school, County, water rate increases have contributed to a proposed \$1.3 million increase, which could have been even higher. He said that the Councilors will still be looking closely at it over the next couple of weeks.*

7. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted –
Angus Jennings, Town Manager